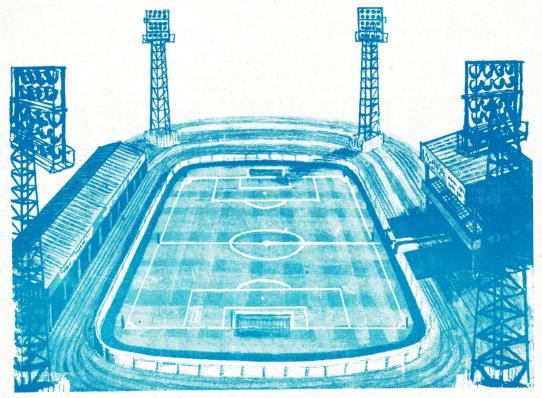
WIGAN

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME - 15p



FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION IV

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DONCASTER ROVERS

Saturday, 14th October, 1978 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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OUR VISITORS

DONCASTER ROVERS were founded in 1879, they were one of the original members of the Midland Alliance but in 1891 they joined the Midland League with which they have had frequent relations. In 1900 they tried without success to join the Football League, but in 1901 they were elected to Div. 2 and finished in 7th place. In 1903, after failing to gain re-election, they had to return to the Midland League.

However, in 1904, receiving 21 votes, they were once more in Div. 2, but only for one season; for being in bottom place they did not seek re-election but went back to the Midland League, and prior to the first war they had a successful period and in 1912 won the County Challenge Cup.

The war came and the players scattered and, in 1915 the old club disbanded. In 1920 a new Limited Company was formed, players engaged, and once more Doncaster Rovers joined the Midland League, remaining there until 1923 when the 3rd Division North was extended to 22 clubs and they rejoined the Football League. The Rovers have had quite a few spells in the 2nd Division but have never been in the 1st Division.

Their ground, Belle Vue, will accommodate almost 40,000. 37,149 have in fact been accommodated there in 1937 when Hull City were visitors. The ground is almost opposite the famous racecourse.

Many notable players have worn the shirt of Doncaster Rovers namely, Sam Cowan, F. Keetley, Jack Lambert and Peter Doherty.

Our only previous encounter with the Rovers was in the mid-sixties when with Alan Brown as player-manager we were drawn at Belle Vue in the 1st round of the FA Cup, making a draw and winning the replay at Springfield Park 3-0. Harry Lyon scored a hat-trick.

We welcome the directors, officials and players to Wigan this afternoon and feel sure the game will be entertaining. Both clubs, near together in the League placings, are now having better times, Doncaster had quite a good win against Stockport last week whilst we were gaining a commendable draw at Huddersfield.

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A word from the Manager

GOOD AFTERNOON ALL

Today we welcome Stan Anderson and his Doncaster team to Springfield Park. Tuesday's result against Torquay United really pushed home the point of how close the Fourth Division is at present. Previous to Tuesday's game Doncaster were one place below us in the League, and on winning 1-0 they went up no fewer than seven places.

Doncaster have a very experienced side and we can look forward to an interesting contest today.

HUDDERSFIELD MATCH

I would like to pay tribute to the hundreds of Latics supporters who made the trip across the Pennines last Saturday. Their support was invaluable and I am sure they were pleased by the way the team performed. We certainly are reserving our best stuff for the away matches and it is a fact that in six away games this season we have only lost six goals, and three of them have been penalty kicks. So I would say we have got to grips with life away from home, and if we can rid ourselves of our anxiety at home then I am sure all will be well.

BARNSLEY

Our big test will come next Saturday against Barnsley as they are currently on a crest. If we can do anything at Oakwell then I will firmly believe we are on the way.

Enjoy today's match.

IAN McNEILL, Manager.

Forthcoming Fixtures

Next home match-

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION IV
WEDNESDAY, 18th OCTOBER, 1978 — Kick-off 7-30 p.m.
WIGAN ATHLETIC V. HALIFAX TOWN

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

SATURDAY, 21st OCTOBER, 1978 — Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

WIGAN ATHLETIC RES. v. CARLISLE UNITED RES.

Focus on NOEL WARD

Full Name . Noel Gerard Ward

Birthplace: Strabane, Northern Ireland.

Birthdate . 8th December, 1952.

Height: 6ft. 2 inches Weight: 12st 11lbs.

Previous Clubs: Derry City, Portadown, Aberdeen.

Married: Yes.

Children . Kerrie, aged 18 months.

Car: No.

Favourite player: George Best.

Favourite other team: Strabane United

Most difficult opponent: They are all difficult.

Most memorable match: Ardboe v. Owen Rce O'Neills (Gaelic match)

Biggest thrill: Going on tour to Australia.

Biggest disappointment: Losing an Irish Cup Final.

Best country visited: Australia

Favourite food: Any good food and chips.

Miscellaneous likes: Reading and fishing when I go home on holiday

Miscellaneous dislikes: Having the Boss on my 5-a-side team.

Favourite TV shows: Sports programmes and documentaries.

Favourite singers: Mcody Blues, John Denver, Neil Diamond.

Favourite actors: Clint Eastwood. Jim Kabia.

Best friend: I hope I have many.

Biggest influence on career: No one in particular.

Biggest drag in soccer: Long coach journeys and being injured.

International honours: Irish Youth Cap.

Personal ambition . To be happy.

Professional ambition: To play for Ireland.

If not in football

what would you like to be A fitter

Which person in the world would you most like to meet: ?????

Pen Pictures of Doncaster Rovers A.F.C.

- STAN ANDERSON (Manager). Born Horden (Durham). After a distinguished career as a wing half with Sunderland, Newcastle Utd. and Middlesborough, and also gaining five Under-23 and 2 full England caps, became manager at Middlesborough in 1966. He then went into management in Greece before returning to become assistant to Gordon Jago at Q.P.R., and subsequently to Doncaster Rovers in 1975.
- DAVID BRADLEY (defender). This ex-England schoolboy was signed during the summer from Manchester Utd. for £10,000. He joined United as an apprentice from school in April 1974 and signed professional in January 1975. Although he has not played in United's first team, he was a consistently outstanding player in their Central League side. Born Manchester.
- MICKEY FRENCH. Another of Doncaster's summer signings, Mick was part of a deal which took winger lan Miller to Swindon Town. He began his career at QPR as an apprentice when Stan Anderson was manager there and was then transferred to Brentford where he scored 16 goals in 56 league appearances. He then moved to Swindon Town in February 1977 where he made only five appearances (scoring once) due to serious injury.
- TED HEMSLEY (defender). Signed from Sheffield United during the 1977 close season. A very experienced full-back who has played in all four divisions. Over 250 appearances for Sheffield Utd. and 234 appearances for Shrewsbury Town, his first club. Ted also plays County Cricket for Worcestershire as an all rounder. 25 appearances last season. Born Stoke.
- JOE LAIDLAW. Signed from Carlisle Utd. in 1976 by Stan Anderson, who whilst manager at Middlesbro' sold him to Carlisle. Team captain for two seasons and scored 13 goals last season from midfield. He played in top grade football with over 250 appearances with Middlesbro' and Carlisle and scored 64 goals. Joe missed only one game last season
- JACK LEWIS. Born Long Eaton. His first club was Lincoln City for who he made 62 appearances scoring 9 goals. He then moved to Grimsby Town in January 1970 and played 232 league games scoring 74 goals. Jack was in the Welsh squad for the Home International series in 1975 and '76 and was substitute for Wales in their European Championship game v. Austria in 1975. He was also a member of Wales Under-23 side in 1976, but as an over-age player. Jack was signed this summer from Blackburn Rovs. to whom he moved in August 1977, making 27 appearances and scoring six goals.
- BOBBY OWEN (forward). Signed in the summer of 1977 from Carlisle Utd. on a free transfer. Bobby showed that he has retained the knack of scoring with 12 goals last season despite playing only half of the season up front. Made his League debut in 1965 with Bury for whom he scored 39 goals in 85 appearances. Transferred to Manchester City in 1967-68 after they had won the 1st Division. Was then transferred to Carlisle where he made over 200 appearances scoring 51 goals. Bobby was Player of the Year last season, and apart from one game, which he was sub, was an ever-present.
- DENNIS PEACOCK (goalkeeper). Signed from Notts Forest, after a spell on loan, along with lan Miller in a package deal which took Terry Curran to Forest. Has since been a regular member of the first team and must surely be in the top three 'keepers in the Division. Missed only the first two games of 1977-78 season.
- STEPHEN REED. Rovers longest serving player has been dogged by injuries since making his debut in 1971 at the age of 15. Mainly a full-back but has filled in at centre-half. 15 appearances last season.
- BRIAN TAYLOR. Signed from Middlesbro' in 1975-76, in a £30,000 package deal, since when he has been a regular centre-half. 42 league and 3 cup games in 1977-78 season.
- PAT LALLY (midfield). Signed September 1978 from Swansea City. Seven appearances to date.

DICK HABBIN.

MARK COX.

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LATICS LINE

by Nick Duxbury



Although Latics have taken five points out of eight in the last four games, the tremendous improvement in results has still not extricated them from the bottom reaches of Division 4.

On recent performances Latics deserve mid-table respectability, but the dreaded re-election zone refuses to let go and lan McNeill's men need to string together a few good results yet before they can escape.

Today's visitors Doncaster didn't help matters by beating Torquay earlier in the week. The Rovers, then third from bottom, leapfrogged over Latics to shoot seven places up the table, leaving their Springfield Park hosts deeper in the mire.

But just as a 1-0 home win did it for Rovers against "The Gulls" a solitary goal victory will do Latics this afternoon, and hopefully, tonight's League table will see Latics doing the climbing.

And the goal that could mean goodbye to lowly status may well come from Derek Brownbill, the trialist striker who has set about writing a long term contract at Springfield with vital goals in the last two games.

Derek sank Scunthorpe and earned a draw at Huddersfield and now goes out to put his name on the scoresheet for the third game running.

Mr. McNeill is still looking for a real livewire striker to put away the goals, but in the meantime Latics fans will be thanking their lucky stars that Derek decided to stay on for another month.

And with a trip to face Alan Clarke's on song Barnsley coming up, Latics need maximum points from both today's game with Rovers and Wednesday night's home encounter with fellow early strugglers Halifax.

Two wins would be just the job, catapulting Latics out of the sticky clutches of the degrading bottom four.

WE ARE BACKING "LATICS" ALL THE WAY

Home and Away — read NICK DUXBURY in Wigan's own

Evening Post & Chronicle

World Wide 7

55 - 57 MESNES

I. A. T. A.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As many spectators will know, the Chairman is at present on a business trip to New Zealand, but he has given instructions that his column in the programme must be continued, and he has left many notes to be included. He was delighted in the performances of the team in the last three games he saw prior to his departure, namely at York, Scunthorpe, Portsmouth, and we know he will be very happy with the point gained at Huddersfield.

Throughout the season so far, it has been noted that Mr. Horrocks has been very impressed with the crowd behaviour by our own supporters, and apart from a few minor incidents which took place at Huddersfield, the conduct of Wigan fans was of the highest possible standard. It is pleasing to see that in these days of hooliganism there is very little to worry about, either at Springfield Park or when we are away from home.

It was very disappointing to see, after gaining a good point at Huddersfield, that we had dropped three places in the League table—every club except Rochdale and Halifax underneath us won their game, and therefore moved slightly above us. This surely goes to prove that clubs in the League are evenly matched, as there is no more than six points difference between us and clubs in the top four.

In a few weeks time, Mr. Horrocks and the Secretary will be attending a meeting of associate members of the Football League in London. This is the first time Wigan will have been on the "inside—looking out" of a Football League meeting.

The Chairman has asked the Board to tender his apologies for his non-attendance at the games played whilst he is away. We do know he was particularly sorry not to have received the Doncaster representatives personally as the last and only time we have met Doncaster (in the FA Cup-tie in the mid-sixties) he was then Chairman of Wigan Athletic F.C.

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STREET - WIGAN

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Latics continued their impressive performances of late with a great draw FOOTBALL LEAGUE - DIVISION IV 188 .blederebbull to SATURDAY, 14th OCTOBER, 1978 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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11	Ian Purdie	11	Joe Laidlaw
12 News	Alan Crompton	12	Mark Cox

Referee: Mr. D. W. CIVIL (Birmingham)

Linesmen: Mr. D. Capey (Stoke-on-Trent) Red Flag

Mr. J. J. Shawcross (Northwich) Yellow Flag

OPINION

by Harold Ashurst

I've always thought that League tables and positions so early in the season give a wrong impression of what a particular football club is going to do during the season and Saturday backed me up to the hilt.



Latics continued their impressive performances of late with a great draw at Huddersfield. Before that game they were seventh from the bottom of the league. Now anyone would expect they would at least stay in the same position, maybe even move up one.

In fact, quite the opposite happened. From being seventh from the bottom Wigan dropped three places all because the clubs below them won one game.

That's my argument about league tables so early. Clubs can win one game and leap up three or four places, and clubs, as happened to Latics on Saturday, can draw away from home and end up slipping.

To the outsider looking in that sort of jumping and dropping can deceive. Anyone who picked up a paper on Sunday morning and saw Wigan's league position will have said: "I see Wigan are near the bottom again, they must be having trouble." When in fact they probably have the best record over the last five matches or so of the bottom clubs.

Wigan have the consolation of two home games against two of the three clubs below them in the league, starting today with Doncaster. Four points from those two games should lift them well clear — but you never know.

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LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (DIVISION 1)

Wigan Athletic Reserves

1978		1979	- 4
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18-Blackpool 'A'	1 2-1	1-Oldham Ath. Res	
25-Southport ResH	1-1	6-Morecambe Res	
		13—Port Vale Res	
September-		20—Manchester City 'A'	Н
2—Everton 'A'A		27—Macclesfield T. Res	A
9—Chester 'A'	1 1-3		
15-Tranmere R. Res.	0-0	February	
16—		3—Bradford City Res.	
23-Bradford City Res	5-0	10-Crewe Alex Res	
30—Liverpool 'A'	1-2	17—Manchester Utd. 'A'	A
		24-Oldham Ath. Res	A
October-			
7—Rochdale Res	1 2-2	March	
14—Rochdale Res	4	3—Carliste Res.	
21-Carlisle Utd. Res.	1	10-Stockport County 'A'	
27—Stockport County 'A'	A (Fri.)	17—Bolton Wanderers 'B'	
		24—Bolton Wanderers 'B'	
November—		31-Wrexham Res	A
11-Tranmere R. Res.	Н		
18—Crewe Alex 'A'	4	April—	
25-Manchester City 'A'	A,	7—Manchester Utd. 'A'	
		13-Southport Res	A (Fri.)
December-		15-Wrexham Res	
2—Blackpool 'A'	A	16—	
9-Port Vale Res.	H	21-Liverpool 'A'	Н
16Chester 'A'	A	28—	
23-Macclesfield T. Res.	Н	May	
26			
30—Morecambe Res	A	5—Everton 'A'	Н

Today's Referee

CIVIL, Derek W. (Birmingham). Commenced refereeing in 1955, and via the Worcester Combination, Fcotball Combination and Football League line, qualified for the full list in 1969. Has refereed the F.A. Ccunty Ycuth Cup Final in 1971/72 and was linesman in a European Cup quarter final (1972), also Scctland v. Switzerland in 1975/76.

Married with two sons, he works in the printing industry. Helps with coaching and running a local junior team, with help and advice to young referees.



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